

Fuel for Thought

November 2004

The 939th Air Refueling Wing, Portland, Ore.

Vol. 2, Issue 11

Plans to travel

Gano retiring after 41-years

by Maj Karen Magnus
939ARW, Chief of Public Affairs

On November 6, 2004 we will say good bye and good luck to a member of our wing who has faithfully served his country for 41 years!

Colonel Richard A. Gano enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1963 to become a Security Policeman at Fairchild AFB. His career in Security Police spanned 24 years, 7 different bases, including time in Vietnam. Gano left active duty in 1972 to attend Western Oregon University, and during that time also joined the Air National Guard, where he eventually earned his commission and became the Security Forces commander. In 1988, he came to the 939th Rescue

Wing as the Chief of Social Actions, and worked his way through various positions to eventually become in 1999, the commander of the 939th Air Refueling Wing Support Group. His awards and decorations are numerous.

When asked what brought him to the Air Force in 1963, Gano replied, "I was allergic to mud. The draft was on and

I did not want to go in the Army, so I joined the Air Force."

His original plan did not involve Security Forces, he wanted to be a meteorologist, but unfortunately was too near-sighted to qualify, which left him with three choices, "I could be a sheet shaker in Supply, cook, or go to what

was then Air Police, now Security Forces. I couldn't cook, and supply didn't really appeal, so I became a cop."

One of his more amusing memories from after basic training but before attending technical school, "The first 45 days while we were waiting for technical school, we walked the ramp with broomsticks because we weren't weapons qualified yet."

After active duty, he spent 25 years as a high school teacher and counselor and has already retired from that

career. Gano said he is looking forward to having time to travel around the world to places like Australia and New Zealand.



photo by Maj Karen Magnus

Col Gano drives the bus at Camp Rilea during the July exercise, demonstrating that even skills learned long ago come back when needed.



photo by Maj Karen Magnus

Col Gano may have left Security Forces 16 years ago, but clearly he has maintained his sharp shooting skills.

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Chief's Corner

The Attributes of an Airman; Professionalism and Performance

By CMSgt Reuben Evans
939MXS Maintenance Supervisor

As Air Force Reserve representatives, we have to understand that there are two key dimensions within our branch of service – professionalism and performance. One cannot survive without the other. They both are needed to provide us with a perfect balance. Performance is intrinsic because it means “doing one’s job.” Everyone must be provided with the required training to do their job and complete the mission. This is accomplished through many methods such as formal technical school, field training, mobile training teams, upgrade training, on-the-job training, professional military education and college academic courses. It is then each individual’s responsibility to apply what they have learned. How we apply our training and education is the difference between knowing what needs to be done and then actually executing those learned knowledge skills.

Professionalism speaks of the individual in “who you are” and “how you perform your job.” Your

attitude, appearance, leadership and judgment are attributes that significantly defines the way you perform your job. Do you have a positive attitude toward your work?

Do you demonstrate a willingness and take initiative towards your work? Even though some of your duties may be boring or redundant, they are still critical for mission accomplishment. By approaching your work environment with a positive professional attitude can make the difference between mission success and failure. There is no doubt that the military is a demanding way of life. As airmen, sometimes “just doing the job” is not enough. You must always display your professional qualities along with your technical abilities. Your performance reports consider these two elements among the various ratings.

In closing, the late Vince Lombardi, head coach of the Green Bay Packers, once said that “Some of us will do our jobs well and some of us will not, but we will all be judged by one thing - the results.”



U.S. Air Force Photo

Fuel for Thought

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939 ARW Commander

Col. William Flanigan

Chief of Public Affairs

Maj. Karen Magnus

Public Affairs Specialist/Editor/Admin

Roger A. Edwards

Congratulations

Civilian

Welcome

Kyle Alley
Heath Conrad

939MOF
939MSS

Neal Therrien

939MSG

Promotions

Paul Pietrowski
Donald Odum

939MSS
939AMXS

Awards

Sturdavant Holly
Martin Elwin
Dance Genise
Julie Altman

939MSS
939ARW
939ARW
939ARW

Military

Welcome

TSgt Tammy Lanz
TSgt Tammy Rowe

939MXG
939MXS

To SMSgt

Michael Knowles

939ARW

To MSgt

SSgt Timothy Bennett
SSgt Scott Cameron
SSgt Heath Conrad
SSgt Neal Cordry
SSgt Richard Saskasitz

83APS
939MSS
939MSS
939MXS
939AMXS

Antonello Burke
Michael Cristler
Quentin Graham

939MSG
939CES
939CES

To TSgt

SrA Patrick Burtch
SrA James Cabrera
SrA Larry Eckert
SrA Scott Miller
SrA Jamie Peregoy
SrA David Ruddick
SrA Luke Shick
SrA Derek Waitman
SrA Bryan Wall

939MXS
939OSF
939CES
939AMXS
64ARS
939AMXS
939AMXS
83APS
939AMXS

Robert Emmons
Aaron Warner

939AMXS
939MDS

To SSgt

Nathan Minich
Amy Schmid
Vicky Vigil

939AMXS
939SVF
939CES

To SrA

A1C May Anderson
A1C Isaac Blanton
A1C Shawn Cardwell
A1C Edgar DelRio
A1C Margo Densmore
A1C Adam Gilles
A1C Justin Hall
A1C Colin Lambarth
A1C Jennifer Lister
A1C Chivonne Murphy
A1C Michael Nelson
A1C Andrew Peterson
A1C Sarah Rooks
A1C Casey Steele
A1C Ryan Stroup
A1C Ashley Vanegas

83APS
304RQS
939MSS
939LRS
939LRS
304RQS
939CES
939AMXS
939OSF
939MXS
304RQS
939MSS
83APS
939AMXS
939AMXS
939MDS

Christel Liebhaber
Jennifer Lister
Brian Rottweiler
Trisha Sherry

83APS
939OSF
939MDS
939MDS

Awards

Air Force Commendation Medal

Maj Michael Markstaller
TSgt Caleb LaFountain

64ARS
939OSF

Meritorious Service Medal

MSgt Matthew Ramp
MSgt Mark Ross
TSgt James Hackler
TSgt Wendell Witt
SSgt Darrin Shore

304RQS
304RQS
304RQS
304RQS
304RQS

Promotions

To CMSgt

Scott Smith

939OG



photo by Maj Karen Magnus

We have a hero among us! Capt Mike Fister, 64th Air Refueling Squadron, was presented the Distinguished Flying Cross on Sunday, October 24, in a ceremony conducted by 939ARW commander, Col William Flanigan.

The DFC is a medal awarded to any member of the U.S. armed forces who is distinguished by heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight in combat or in support of operations.

Capt Fister distinguished himself by heroism while a special operations C-130 "Combat Talon" pilot with Joint Special Operations Command Central near Bahgram, Afghanistan on February 16, 2002.

According to the award citation, Captain Fister, on that date "while supporting an elite special operations force of Army, Air Force, Navy and other governmental agencies, displayed incredible aerial skills and superb airmanship during two extremely hazardous missions into and out of an austere, short field landing zone under extreme weather conditions that had already been termed unacceptable by other aircraft."

The citation continued, saying "Captain Fister's support proved essential to the successful commencement of Operation Anaconda and contributed significantly to the success of the war on terrorism."



photo by Maj Karen Magnus

MSgt Joseph Holness, TSgt Robert Thater, SSgt Dan Nielsen, and SrA Muriah Frizzell and SrA James McGregor answered the call for volunteer drivers to support the Army in Iraq. In February 2004 they left Portland for Kuwait and then Balad Air Base, Iraq. There they served as convoy drivers, gunners and combat medics with the Army within the "Sunni Triangle."

In a Sunday, October 24 ceremony, 939ARW commander, Col William Flanigan, recognized the five with Certificates of Appreciation and wing coins.



photo by Maj Karen Magnus

Capt Sheralee Gardner presents a layette from the wing Family Support Program to SrA Seth Norman, 939MSS, during the October UTA.



photo by Lt Col Dana Difford

TSgt Larry Lewis, 939ARW Military Personnel (in uniform), was surrounded by his family when he re-enlisted during the September UTA. Family members are (left to right) Kaitlin, Jonah, Kathie (Mrs. Lewis), Khloe, Kindahl, Kaylie (in arms) Karrisa and Jamine.



Presented service awards during the October Civilian Commander's Call were Linda McNeal, John Prigmore and Catherine Forman, 10-Years; David Ridley, 20-Years; and Julie Altman, 30-Years. In addition, Christina Morales was presented with a layette from the wing Family Support Program. Photos by Maj Karen Magnus.



photo by Maj Karen Magnus

Col James Ostrander (Doc O) hands over his keys to Col Robert Ferek during his farewell to the 939ARW Medical Squadron. Col Ostrander has been reassigned to Duke Field, Florida.



photo by Maj Karen Magnus

Maj David Jeske, 939LRS commander, congratulates SSgt Robert Hudgins, 939MXS, following his October UTA reenlistment ceremony.



photo by Maj Karen Magnus

Maj Jerry Parrish, 939ARW JAG, presents Col William Flanigan, wing commander, with a walker at the colonel's fiftieth birthday celebration last month.



AFRC selects new command chief

By 1st Lt. Lance Patterson
Air Force Reserve Command Public Affairs

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. – Chief Master Sgt. Jackson A. Winsett will become Air Force Reserve Command's command chief master sergeant later this year, said AFRC officials Sept. 28.

Lt. Gen. John A. Bradley, chief of Air Force Reserve and AFRC commander, selected Chief Winsett from among 20 nominees for the position. Air Force reservists from all categories – traditional reservists, individual mobilization augmentees, air reserve technicians and Active Guard Reserve members – applied for the command's top enlisted position.

Chief Winsett has been the command chief for 10th Air Force at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, Texas, since May 2000. He will be the fourth command chief that AFRC has had since its inception as a major command in 1997 and the 12th person to hold the job in the Air Force Reserve since March 1973.

The position of AFRC command chief master sergeant is a 3-year controlled tour at Robins AFB. The duties involve communicating with the commander on problems, concerns, morale and attitudes of the enlisted force and, in turn, ensuring the commander's policies are known and understood by the enlisted force.

"My concern is for the enlisted force and the utilization of the force," said Chief Winsett. "I anticipate working hard for the next 36 months ensuring the needs of the enlisted corps are met."

Chief Winsett will succeed Chief Master Sgt. Cheryl D. Adams, who has served as the AFRC command chief master sergeant since February 2001. She was the first African-American woman to hold the title of command chief on active duty for a major command. Chief Adams is

being considered for a position within the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Manpower and Reserve Affairs. If selected she will report for duty in the Pentagon as early as Dec. 1.

Chief Winsett entered the Air Force Reserve in 1981 after serving initially on active duty in the U.S. Army from 1966 to 1969 with tours in Berlin, Germany, and in the Republic of Vietnam.

His duties in the Air Force Reserve included assignments as an administrative specialist, military personnel flight specialist, group career advisor, first-sergeant and command chief master sergeant.

He served as the senior enlisted advisor for the 442nd Fighter Wing at Whiteman AFB, Mo., before becoming the command chief for 10th Air Force.

In his civilian career, Chief Winsett worked for the Federal Deposit Insurance Co. and owned a consulting firm. He retired from both occupations, devoting the last three years to full-time service in the Air Force Reserve.

Chief Winsett has lived in Lexana, Kan., since 1989 where he has been a traditional reservist. He is married and the father of one daughter and two sons.

Chief Winsett holds a bachelor of arts degree in psychology and business and a master of arts degree in business and counseling. (AFRC News Service)



U.S. Air Force Photo

Command Chief Master Sgt. Jackson A. Winsett has been selected as the top enlisted member for Air Force Reserve Command. He will succeed Chief Master Sgt. Cheryl D. Adams, who has served as the AFRC command chief master sergeant since February 2001.

Remembrance: November 11th

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — The following is a Veterans Day message from Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James G. Roche and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper:

“Each year, America honors its veterans for the sacrifices and hard-fought successes of so many of its citizens — those who have worn the uniform as Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Coast Guardsmen and Marines.

“The original Armistice Day recognized the cease-fire signed by Germany and the Allied powers on November 11, 1918. This concluded the hostilities of World War I, known as the “War to end all wars.” Over two million service members of the American Expeditionary Force fought bravely on and over the battlefields of Europe.

“Today, our expeditionary Air Force continues the fight in defense of freedom around the world against a resilient enemy who opposes our way of life.

“Since those challenging days at the dawn of the 20th Century to the awakening hours of the 21st Century, we have witnessed major wars and countless conflicts. One constant has remained: the commitment of those who served and continue to serve our nation in forever challenging times — our veterans. We honor their memory for what they have done to keep America and the world safe.

“To our Airmen who continue the fight against those who have made America their target, we salute you. We thank you and your families for your constant vigil and your continuing sacrifices. May God bless you and the United States of America.”



CFC fund drive

It's that giving time of year

by Roger Edwards
939ARW Public Affairs Staff

The holidays are rapidly approaching and the wing has begun preparations to not only celebrate the season, but to support the charities that have become a local tradition over the years.

First is the Department of Defense wide "Combined Federal Campaign." DoD's answer to the civilian "Community Chest," the CFC allows active, reserve and national guard soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines, and their civilian co-workers to support any of hundreds of charities pre-screened to assure that they meet minimum standards of charitable work and cost effectiveness. These charities cover the spectrum. They range from our own 939th Air Refueling Wing Foundation, which provides funds to assist our own members in time of need; to Pearl S. Buck International, Inc., an organization that "improves quality of life and expands opportunities for children..."

Charities supported by CFC provide support in fields ranging from medical research to environmental and wildlife preservation. What you wish to support is up to you. Your gift can go into the general fund, or you can



Air Force Photo

Santa was one of the hits at the wing Christmas party where CFC fund raising continued with the annual "Desert/Miscellaneous Auction."



photo by Roger Edwards

One of the cooks at the 2003 CFC Pancake Breakfast was Lt Col Elaine Barron. She came dressed for the job.

designate one or more organizations to receive your money. And, while traditional reservists can only give cash donations, ARTS and civilian employees can give through payroll deduction.

In addition to the regular CFC solicitation that will run through December 6th, the wing traditionally holds certain events to raise CFC funds. This year is no exception.

"Our Pancake breakfast will be held November 2," said Capt Sher Gardner, the 2004 CFC boss.

Both the Reserve and Guard will be sponsoring the annual "Chili Cook-off" in mid-November (particulars will be announced), and the Dessert/Miscellaneous Auction is scheduled to be held during the unit Christmas Party on December 4.

"Once again," said Capt Gardener, "our primary goal is to get as much participation as we can in the CFC, and to increase the total donated sum. Last year the wing donated \$16,359.88. We want to do better this year."

Holiday food drive kicks off

“Share Because You Care”

The 939th Air Refueling Wing’s “Share Because You Care” food collection drive has kicked off.

This is the 14th year the wing has supported the Portland Police Bureau’s Sunshine Division, a non-profit organization that provides food and clothing to disadvantaged members of the community on a year round basis. Oregon has one of the nation’s highest unemployment rates and the holiday season can find family struggling for bare necessities. The food the wing supplies can make a real difference for our neighbors.

“Over the last 13-years, the wing has contributed in excess of 257,000 pounds of food,” said MSgt Michael Clarke, Wing Ground Safety Manager, who is assuming directorship of the program this year. “This year our goal is to exceed our annual average of 20,000 pounds.”

Food donations may consist of any dry food products, canned goods, boxed or bagged items and canned or bottled beverages. Fresh fruits and vegetables are acceptable, but will be weighed and delivered upon receipt instead of being delivered in the annual convoy. Donations may be placed in the barrels provided throughout the wing. The wing will continue the tradition of competition between maintenance, operations and the 939ARW headquarters building, with the final weigh-in conducted from 1 to 2 p.m. on December 5 during the December UTA. The food will then be collected to a central location and loaded aboard vehicles for the convoy on Friday, December 10.

If there are any questions concerning the event, please call MSgt Michael Clarke at 335-4205.

Giving Tree supports foster kids

Your gift counts

TSgt Neal Therrien, 939th Mission Support Group Workgroup Manager, has taken over the “Giving Tree” campaign for 2004, and is urging everyone to dig in and help make Christmas a happier holiday for foster kids in the greater Portland area. “I’ll be putting out paper Christmas Tree ornaments in the headquarters building, in maintenance and in operations over the next few weeks,” he said. “The ornaments will each have the name and age of a foster child, and that child’s Christmas wish. Anyone can pick an ornament, pick up the requested gift and place it, with ornament attached, at one of the three collection

points where donations will be on display until just before the delivery date.”

In the week before delivery, the toys and gifts will be concentrated in building 300 – and then delivered on Monday, December 13.

These gifts go to foster kids that have been placed with families throughout the Portland area, kids that often have not experienced the happiest Christmases in the past. You can help make this Christmas a special one for these children.



photo by Roger Edwards

MSgt Daniel Beshears, 939th Services Flight, shows off some of the toys and gifts donated during the 2003 Giving Tree Campaign. Donated items helped make Christmas a happier occasion for foster children in more than 800 Portland area families.

People, equipment and supplies for 60-days

Wing holds first TSART exercise

by Roger Edwards

The 939th Air Refueling Wing held its first Tanker Strategic Airlift Reconstitution Team (TSART) exercise on September 22, 23 and 24.

“The TSART is basically an exercise designed to see how

quickly we can deploy a team to a bare base and be ready to receive aircraft in a national emergency,” said Maj David Jeske, 939th Logistics Readiness Squadron commander. “Our team consists of 160 people and the equipment and supplies for 60-days.”

This time the exercise was a “Table Top” exercise according to Jeske. It was designed to make sure the people involved have the basics of their duties in the event of a real emergency, but did not actually deploy anyone. The goal is that, starting with the receipt of orders, the team and all their gear should be deployed to the bare base and ready to handle aircraft within 24 to 48 hours based on the site of the “bare base.” “We were focusing on command and control, communications, senior staff decision points, and on procedures, instructions and checklists,” said the major. “Since this was our first, the exercise was being used as much to teach as to test. After all, you have to learn to walk before you can run.”

“The exercise actually started on Friday with a review of preparations,” he said. “We treat that just the way we would an actual situation. After all, in the real world, when you see the President sending troops into an area the idea is to review your preparations just in case.”

The second step in the exercise was to initiate recall. According to Jeske, every reservist in the wing should have gotten a call Friday, indicating they were receiving the call as part of an exercise. From there the exercise continued in a step-by-step manner with aircraft generation, standing up control centers and establishing necessary security areas; to inspecting mobility bags and preparing cargo and supplies for deployment.

“All-in-all,” said Jaske, “we’re pretty pleased with how well things went.”



Memo improves job protection for guardsmen, reservists

WASHINGTON, Sept. 30, 2004 – Attorney General John Ashcroft and Labor Secretary Elaine L. Chao signed a memorandum of understanding to protect the employment rights of men and women returning from military service.

The memorandum strengthens enforcement of the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994, commonly known as USERRA. Congress passed the act to safeguard the employment rights and benefits of service members returning to civilian life.

“The brave men and women protected by USERRA voluntarily set aside the comforts of civilian life and stepped in harm’s way,” Ashcroft said. “We owe it to them to make sure that their employment rights and protections are fully and vigorously protected upon their return from military service.”

Chao echoed the sentiment.

“Our military men and women have been there for us, so now it’s our turn to step up our efforts for them,” she said.



photo by TSgt. Jason Tudor

Pit crews of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve No. 29 car rush to get driver Kerry Earnhardt out of the pits during the NASCAR Busch Race at Dover (Del.) International Speedway Sept. 25. ESGR is a Defense Department volunteer organization that provides free education and consultation for employers of National Guardsmen and reservists. Earnhardt finished 23rd.



photo by TSgt. Jason Tudor

Flying the colors of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (above), driver Kerry Earnhardt takes turn 1 at Dover (Del.) International Speedway Sept. 25 during the first few laps of the NASCAR Busch Series Race.

“This agreement will strengthen enforcement of USERRA by ensuring faster resolution of USERRA cases and quicker enforcement action by the government when it is necessary.”

The memorandum deals exclusively with each department’s role and responsibilities in the enforcement of USERRA. The attorney general has delegated his USERRA responsibilities to the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice and the U.S. Attorneys’ offices.

The Department of Labor has delegated its USERRA responsibilities to the Veterans’ Employment and Training Service and the Office of the Solicitor.

The memorandum will streamline the enforcement process, allowing the two agencies to work closely and effectively to ensure the protection of USERRA rights.

When a complaint raises an “issue of immediate and significant harm” and each agency agrees that the complaint appears legitimate, it may be referred for enforcement immediately, officials explained. This prevents two agencies from working on the same issue, wasting time and resources.

In late September, the Department of Labor issued new regulations strengthening USERRA protections.

In addition to the new regulations, Chao and the DOL’s Veterans’ Employment and Training Services have taken other steps to reduce the rate of USERRA violations, to include:

- * Providing briefings to more than 158,000 service members and others on USERRA;
- * Responding to almost 26,000 requests for technical assistance;
- * Distributing more than 240 televised public service announcements, with a second announcement to be released shortly; and
- * Addressing most of the major human resource and employer organizations.

(American Forces Press Service from a Department of Justice news release.)



photo by Maj Karen Magnus

In planning since 1988

Ground broken for new building

by Maj Karen Magnus

On October 6, 2004, Col Flanigan (left), wing commander, and Col Gano (right), support group commander, supervised by the site superintendent, Jeff Ditch (right), and the project manager, Marcus Jones (left), officially

broke ground for a new 3500 square foot outdoor recreational storage, maintenance, and rental equipment building. The building will come complete with a video room and display area. This project has been a long time in the making, and ran up against numerous delays before finally reaching this day.

According to John Nieder, engineering technician for the Portland base, "This project was advertised for bid in May of 1996, so planning started several years before that. The original request for purchase was in May of 1988 with the intent to complete by August of the same year. No such luck."

The first design, provided by the first architect to work on the project, resulted in a 'busted bid', meaning all the contractors bid too high for the amount of money appropriated (this is a non-appropriated funds project), so the contract could not be awarded. The project was set aside even though the need still existed. Two more architects, new locations, new designs and a bigger building, and even more money was set aside for the project, and still twice more they 'busted the bid' and each time the project would have to go on hold for awhile. Finally, the non-appropriated funds staff asked the fourth architect to use the last design, and modify it to fit the budget. It was not easy, but eventually they were able to do so, and numerous years later, we are finally in the process of constructing this building.



Take care when using new USB storage devices

(The following article is excerpted from the "AFCA Infocom Magazine," Scott Air Force Base, IL.)

Starting in December 2004 new unit computers will not have floppy drives but will come with USB storage devices. With any new technology, there are risks associated with usage, and the USB storage device is no exception.

1. USB storage devices can easily introduce viruses in a computer network.

- Using these devices bypass anti-virus filters and firewalls.
- Storage capabilities are so massive, there's the potential of bringing in unauthorized software including shareware, freeware and spyware.



2. The second major risk in using USB storage devices is data loss or theft.

- An unattended device or unlocked computer becomes a rich source of sensitive information.
- The device is so small it is easily lost.

3. Using USB devices in a classified environment presents other risks.


- Most devices don't have write protection mechanisms, placing the device into a classified computer makes it classified at the same level as the systems.

- There is currently no approved utility to sanitize flash memory.

Becoming aware of the risks with using these devices is a great beginning to safeguarding information. AF instructions do not specifically mention USB storage devices but they are a form of portable/removal media and therefore subject to all AF policies regarding media.

To prevent someone from downloading information to a USB storage device, ensure the system has a password protected screen saver enabled and remove common access cards from readers before leaving the computer unattended. Ensure the use of antivirus software, keep it up to date and use it. Scan all removable media, including USB storage devices for viruses before each use.

**TESTING TIMES AT THE
EDUCATION CENTER bldg 370**




CLEP and DANTES testing is conducted on Tuesdays at 0800 and 1300 and occasionally on Saturday afternoon of the UTA.

CDC and PME testing is conducted every Thursday at 0800 and 1300 hrs
And at 1300 on Friday prior to the main UTA
And at 0800 and 1300 on Sunday of the UTA
NOT ON TUESDAYS

AFOQT and ASVAB testing is conducted by appointment on Mondays or Wednesdays but limited to one per month.

Phone ahead appointments to 5-4596 preferred but walk-ins at the above schedule accepted.



Fall home safety = maintenance

by Michael Clarke

939ARW Ground Safety Manager

Each year homes and families are destroyed because preventative maintenance around the home from the long summer was not attended to. Here are some tips for your action so you won't be a statistic.

Winter Fire Safety Tips:

1. Insulation

In this age of high-energy costs, adding insulation to your house can save you energy, but it could also lead to a fire. Your fire chief advises you to have your home electrical system checked and have deficiencies corrected by a qualified electrician, especially before installing insulation. Always, make sure insulation is kept away from ceiling light fixtures and other heat sources.



2. Fuel-burning furnace

Your furnace flue must be inspected regularly. Your furnace gives off heat and something else too - carbon monoxide. Carbon monoxide gas has often been described as the 'silent killer'. Clear, colorless and tasteless, it is difficult to detect.

If your furnace flue is clogged or loose, carbon monoxide could be going into your lungs instead of up the chimney. Your fire chief advises you to have your flue inspected on a regular basis by a qualified workman before it's too late for an inspection to make a difference.

3. Wood burning appliances

Wood burning appliances are a subject of expanding use and concern due to rising energy costs. Experts do not recommend the purchase or installation of any wood-burning stove unless it is airtight and has controlled airflow. Your fire chief advises you that if you are burning a lot of wood, your stovepipe and chimney may have a heavy buildup of creosote. If the creosote were to catch fire, your roof could catch fire too. Clean out creosote before it wipes you out!

Fireplace chimneys should be inspected and cleaned at least once a year, stovepipe chimneys once a month.

4. Furnace Maintenance

If your furnace is not properly maintained you could be in very big trouble. Carbon monoxide, the 'silent killer' could be spreading throughout your house as a result of the malfunction. Carbon monoxide, highly flammable and explosive, can increase to a great degree the risk of fire, injury, and death. The fire chief advises you to have your furnace inspected on a regular basis by a qualified professional. Why take a chance when your life and that of your family depends on it?

5. Smoke Detectors

Approved-type properly installed and maintained smoke detectors are critical life saving devices. While a smoke detector won't prevent or extinguish a fire, it can save one's life. Smoke detectors are designed to warn of fire danger in time to allow for escape or call for help. The ear-piercing alarm of the smoke detector may provide you and your family with the precious extra minutes that you need to escape, especially at night (when most fires occur).

When installing smoke detectors, the fire chief advises you to take the following steps:

1. Install at least one smoke detector in the hall leading to the bedrooms.
2. Consider installing additional smoke detectors, especially if your home has more than one level.
3. Make sure smoke detectors are of a type approved by Underwriters' Laboratories of Canada or other recognized testing laboratory.
4. As part of this year's **"Change your Clock, Check Your Smoke Alarm"** campaign, fire stations throughout the country will be undertaking various activities to remind people to replace their smoke alarm battery.
5. Fire Service personnel will be available to check smoke alarms in the homes of older people and people with disabilities.
6. The Fire Service will also provide fire safety advice to householders. This is a service the provided all year round but this week the particular emphasis will be on smoke alarm maintenance.



Fall home safety = maintenance

6. Fire Drills

A fire is no fun? but practicing fire safety can be. Here is some fire safety rules that the whole family can practice together.

1. Sketch the layout of each floor, including windows, doors, and stairways. Make sure that every family member is familiar with the layout.
2. Work out TWO escape routes from each room and mark them clearly on the sketch.
3. Hold frequent fire drills, including some at night, so everyone will know what to do and be able to act quickly in an emergency.
4. Assign a member of the family to be responsible for the elderly or the very young to help them escape. A 'buddy system' should be organized to ensure their safety.
5. Designate a meeting place outside of the home and instruct everyone to go there at once in case of fire.
6. COUNT heads, stay together and DO NOT go back into the house for personal belongings.

Now, have someone call the fire department from the nearest available phone by dialing 911.

7. Practice Child Safety

Every year hundreds of people are killed or bodily injured in fires where they live. The victims of fire are most often children, older people, or handicapped persons. Many of these fires are the result of accidents that could have been prevented. The elimination of all



fire hazards is the key to any effective fire safety program. As most fires are the result of carelessness, the greatest element of safety comes from prevention.

1. Keep trash in covered containers and dispose of it regularly.
2. Store paints, paint thinners and other flammable materials in their original containers and in a well-ventilated area, away from all fire sources.
3. Clean work areas of paint, sawdust, or trash after every do-it-yourself project.

Don't overload circuits or use frayed electrical extension cords.

Have all electrical wiring checked by a competent electrician periodically to make sure it is not faulty. Use only fuses and circuit breakers, which bear the labels of nationally, recognized certification and testing agencies.

Never run an extension cord under a rug or behind curtains.

Do not let large amounts of trash accumulate either indoors or outdoors. Clean attics, basements, closets, garages, and sheds frequently.



8. Keep an eye on your chimney.

It may never be necessary to sweep chimneys of homes heated by oil or gas. Any problem with the chimney should be spotted during the annual inspection of the furnace performed by a qualified, knowledgeable professional. However, it is necessary to sweep regularly chimneys of homes heated by solid fuels (wood and coal) because of creosote buildup associated with the burning of some grades of wood and coal. The resins and gases produced by a smoldering fire don't burn off but go up the chimney where they condense into creosote and present a fire hazard. After a period of time, starting a fire can set the chimney aflame.

9. Coal and wood burning appliances

These types of appliances and their accessories are a subject of expanding use and concern due to rising energy costs. With the increased use of wood and coal stoves the homeowner needs more information. For someone considering the installation of a wood or coal stove, a fireplace, or a solid-fuel furnace, careful consideration must be given to the safety aspects of the equipment and the installation. Expert advice is often required. Instructions must be followed to the letter.

Anyone intending to change or modify his heating system should discuss the matter with his insurance agent, broker, or company. The proposed action may be considered an additional risk for which an appropriate premium may be required. For additional information on the safe installation and use of solid fuel burning appliances and accessories, contact your fire department.

Ask Sergeant Look Sharp

Question of the month...

When traveling in military status, can we “really” wear what we want, or are there guidelines to follow?

Wearing the Uniform is optional when departing from a military airfield on DoD aircraft or US

Government

Commercial

Contract

Flights

(ser-

vice

uniform

combina-

tion) and when

departing from or

arriving at commercial

airports, or traveling on

commercial contract flights.

Those choosing to wear civilian clothing will ensure it is neat, clean, and warm enough for in-flight

operations and appropriate for the

mode of travel and destination. Ex-

amples of inappropriate clothing include:

ripped, torn, frayed, or patched clothing;

tank tops, shorts, short skirts, undergarments

worn as outer garment, bathing suits,

sandals, and any garments which are

revealing or contain obscene, profane, or

lewd words or drawings.

Reference: AFI36-2903AFRCSup1

Chapter 1 Table 1.3 Pg 7 Note 3

Did you know...?

AFRC personnel traveling on military aircraft for

official duty that begins immediately upon arrival at a military installation must travel in the appropriate uniform.

Reference: AFI36-2903AFRCSup1
Chapter 1 Table 1.3 Pg 8 Note 5

Acronym of the month...

NGB - National Guard Bureau

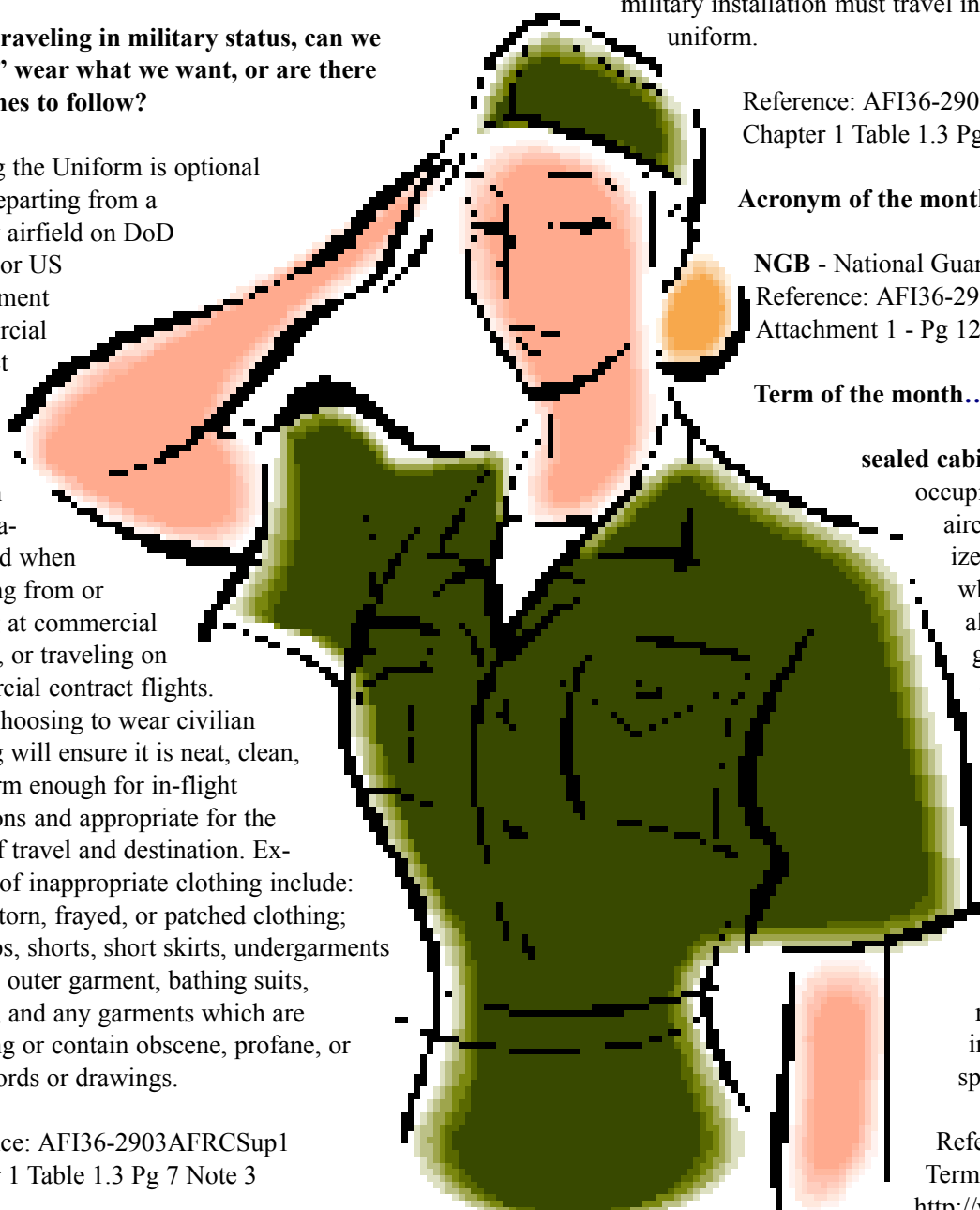
Reference: AFI36-2903AFRCSup1
Attachment 1 - Pg 126

Term of the month...

sealed cabin - The occupied space of an aircraft characterized by walls which do not allow any gaseous exchange between the ambient atmosphere and the inside atmosphere and containing its own ways of regenerating the inside atmosphere.

Reference: Mil
Terms

<http://www.mil-terms.com>



Questions, Comments Suggestions,
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